



Executive Officer's Report to the Board December 19, 2003

Board Updates

Frank "Fred" Aguiar appointed Secretary of the State and Consumer Services Agency

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger recently announced the appointment of Frank "Fred" Aguiar as Secretary of the State and Consumer Services Agency. As of January 1, the Board will report directly to the State and Consumer Services Agency and the secretary or his designee will be a member of the Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board's three-member Board.

Aguiar currently serves as a supervisor in San Bernardino County. Prior to his election to the Board of Supervisors, Aguiar served 14 years in local government, both as a council member and mayor of the City of Chino. In 1992, Aguiar was elected to represent the then-61st Assembly District.

In the Assembly, he chaired the Rules Committee and worked with former Assemblyman and Secretary of State Bill Jones to co-author California's "Three Strikes" legislation. Before entering public life, Aguiar served as the director of commercial development for Lewis Homes of California and Nevada. Aguiar is also a veteran of the Vietnam War where he served beginning in 1969 in the U.S. Army.

Board Joins Attorney General's Task Force on Domestic Violence

Catherine Close, Interim Executive Officer, on December 10 attended the first meeting of Attorney General Bill Lockyer's statewide task force to study how effectively criminal justice agencies deal with domestic violence. The 24-member task force will hold public hearings throughout the state to study local policies and practices, identifying both those working well and others, which may harm domestic violence victims. The task force members include law enforcement and probation officers, prosecutors, public defenders, judges, domestic violence victims' advocates, and public health officials.

This task force was prompted in part by the findings of a study commissioned to determine the effectiveness of laws and practices aimed at reducing domestic violence. The 50-page Senate Office of Research report showed California has taken critical steps to protect domestic violence victims, but that a comprehensive assessment of those efforts is still needed. In 2002, California law enforcement agencies received 196,569 domestic violence-related calls for assistance. By the end of 2004, the task force will submit a report to the Legislature describing current practices, identifying critical needs, highlighting successful approaches and proposing possible legislative changes.

September 11th Statewide Support Group Meeting

On Saturday, December 6, California family members of victims and survivors of the September 11 terrorist attacks met in Los Angeles for a final monthly support group meeting. The day's activities included a welcome from Catherine Close, Interim Executive Officer, the creation of a remembrance book, a special friendship ceremony, and a formal support group meeting that included information on coping with the holidays. Approximately 70 people attended the meeting.

Many individuals expressed sadness over the conclusion of the monthly meetings, funded by an antiterrorism grant from the federal Office for Victims of Crime. In 2004, the Board will hold two quarterly support group meetings. The first will most likely

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be in March. Board staff is happy to report that the participants have chosen to continue meeting monthly on their own, with consultation from the Board and the University of California, San Francisco Trauma Recovery Center.

Federal Office for Victims of Crime Hosts Meeting to Discuss September 11th Grants

On December 7th and 8th, Catherine Close, Interim Executive Officer, and Anita Ahuja, Executive Liaison, attended a meeting in Baltimore hosted by the Federal Office for Victims of Crime (OVC). The purpose of the meeting was to discuss grants provided by OVC for responding to September 11th victims. For the first time, representatives from all states who received these grants met and discussed their successes, challenges, unmet and ongoing needs. OVC also provided clarification on the grant process and their efforts in their Antiterrorism Program.

Ken Feinberg, Special Master of the September 11th Federal Compensation Program, spoke to the group and provided updated information on the status of the Program. As of December 7th, approximately 70% of eligible individuals had applied to the Program. The filing deadline for the program is December 22, 2003. The Program will then focus on processing applications and will close its offices on June 15, 2004. Although there are proposals before Congress to extend the deadline, it is unlikely they will be approved at this late date.

NOVA Conference Comes to Sacramento in 2004

The annual conference of the National Organization of Victim Assistance (NOVA) will be held in Sacramento August 22-27, 2004. Attorney General Bill Lockyer is sponsoring the conference, which is expected to draw 2,000 attendees. The NOVA Board created a California steering committee to plan the event. Anita Ahuja, Executive Liaison, will represent the Board and is chairing the Programs Committee. The conference theme is "Victims Rights: The Gold Standard." The 2004 conference marks NOVA's 30th anniversary.

Victim Compensation

Backlog of Additional Treatment Plans (ATPs) eliminated

The Board eliminated the September backlog of over 450 Additional Treatment Plan (ATP) reviews. Service limitations for outpatient mental health counseling were adopted by the Board in January 2003, then implemented through emergency regulations in March 2003. The majority of Victim Compensation Program (VCP) claimants terminate treatment within the established session limits: 40 for children, 30 for adults, and 15 for derivative victims. A minority of claimants, however, request additional treatment. Once a claimant reaches the session limit, further sessions must be requested through an ATP. Board Staff in the Quality Assurance Mental Health (QAMH) unit review ATPs as specified in the regulations. Less than half of all requests are approved.

Since numerous claimants were already undergoing treatment when the session limits were initiated, the Board received hundreds of ATPs, quickly causing a backlog. Initially, the ATP review process needed changes to the automated system, implementation of boilerplate letters to patients and their mental health providers, and development of review standards. The Review of ATPs includes consideration of the nature of the crime and the progress made by the victim. These reviews, requiring two to three hours, resulted in many ATPs not being processed in a timely manner. These delays disrupted the course of treatment for some patients. QAMH and Legal staff developed a clearer framework for ATP evaluation, streamlining the process and reducing the backlog. Currently, ATP inventory is at 35, with none older than 10 calendar days.

Revenue Recovery

Restitution Trainings for Probation Officers

Revenue Recovery staff provided joint trainings with staff from the California Department of Corrections (CDC) to adult and juvenile probation officers in Santa Cruz, Humboldt, and Del Norte counties on November 18-19 and December 2-5. Topics covered included: Victim Compensation Program services, restitution laws, collection

information, and collections by CDC. Approximately 40 probation officers attended in Santa Cruz, while 62 attended in Humboldt/Del Norte.

Hearing and Appeals Section

During the month of December, 66 claims were scheduled. Between November 21 and December 19, a total of 60 hearings were scheduled.

Upcoming Events

(The conferences and events listed below are for informational purposes only.)

California District Attorneys' Association (CDAA) Statewide Winter Conference

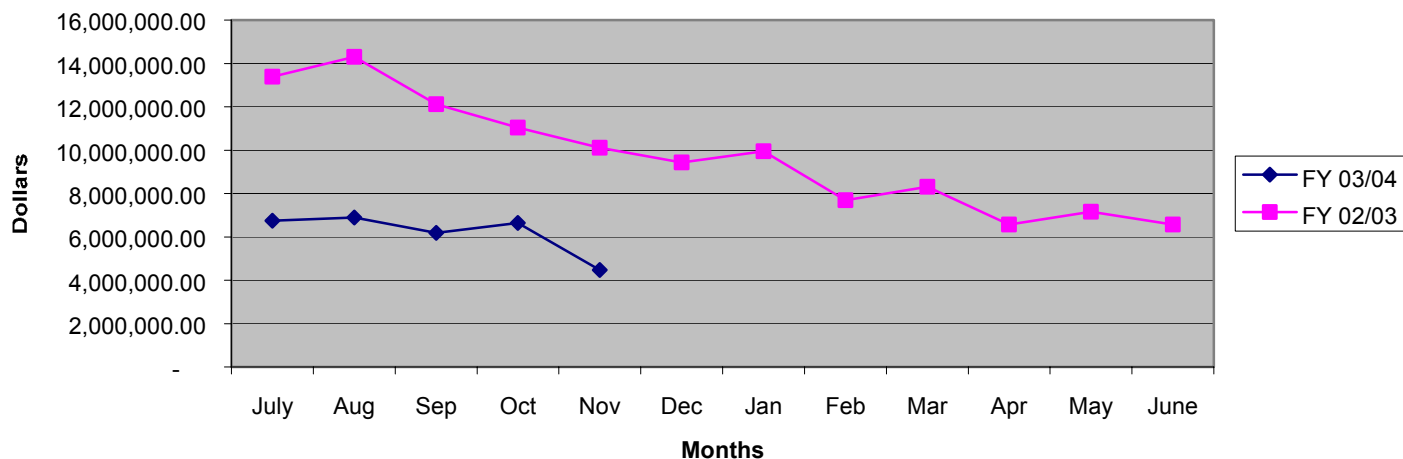
Sponsored by CDAA and the Victim Witness Coordinating Council, this conference will be held January 26-30 in Santa Barbara. The conference agenda includes a Victim Witness Summit that includes a historical look at victim witness programs, community crisis response, best practices, and a presentation by Board staff D.Shaw and J. Shaffer on Restitution and District Attorney responsibilities.

Victim Compensation Program Activity

VCP PAYMENTS

Fiscal Year Comparison	Month of November	Fiscal Year to Date	% Change from Prior FY
FY 03/04	\$4,475,017	\$30,952,194	-49%
FY 02/03		\$60,953,018	

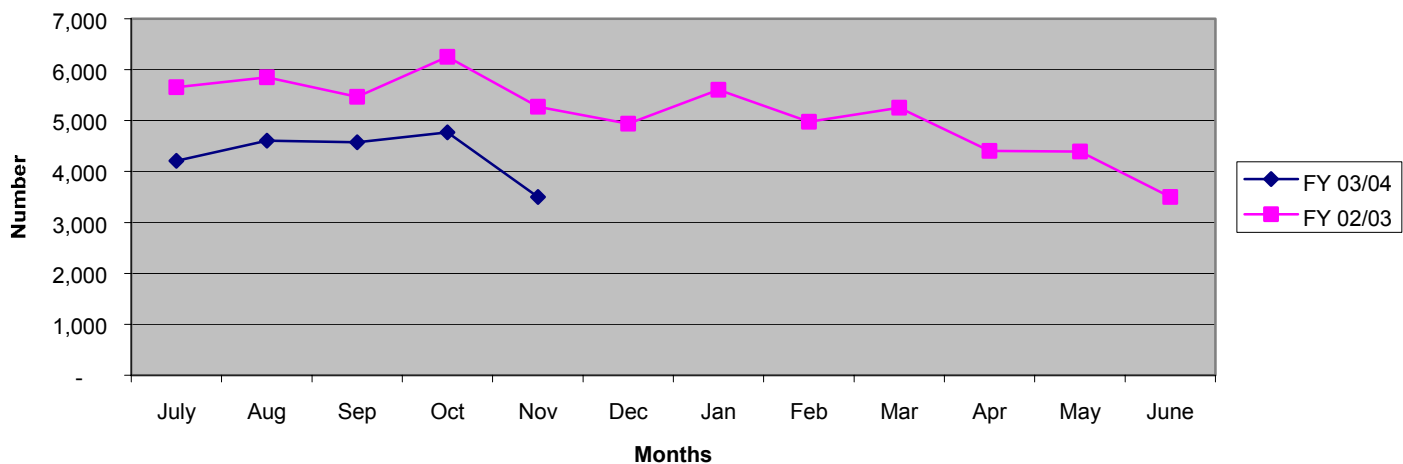
Payment Awards



VCP NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

Fiscal Year Comparison	Month of November	Fiscal Year to Date	% Change from Prior FY
FY 03/04	3,502	21,663	-24%
FY 02/03		28,501	

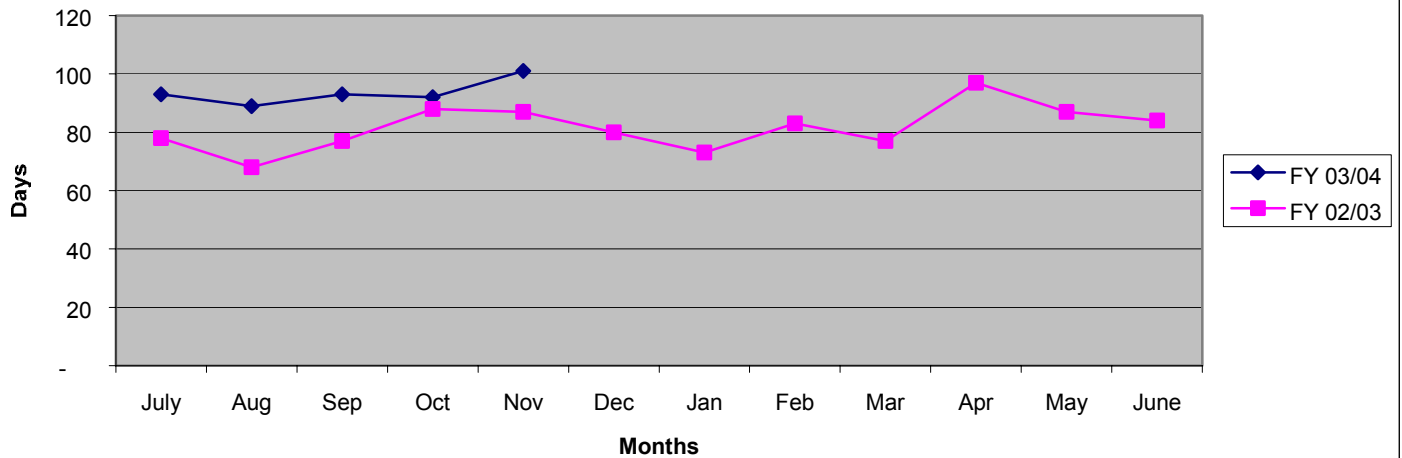
Number of VCP Applications Received



VCP APPLICATION PROCESSING TIME IN DAYS

Fiscal Year Comparison	Month of November	Fiscal Year to Date	% Change from Prior
FY 03/04	101	94	18%
FY 02/03		80	

VCP Application Processing Time

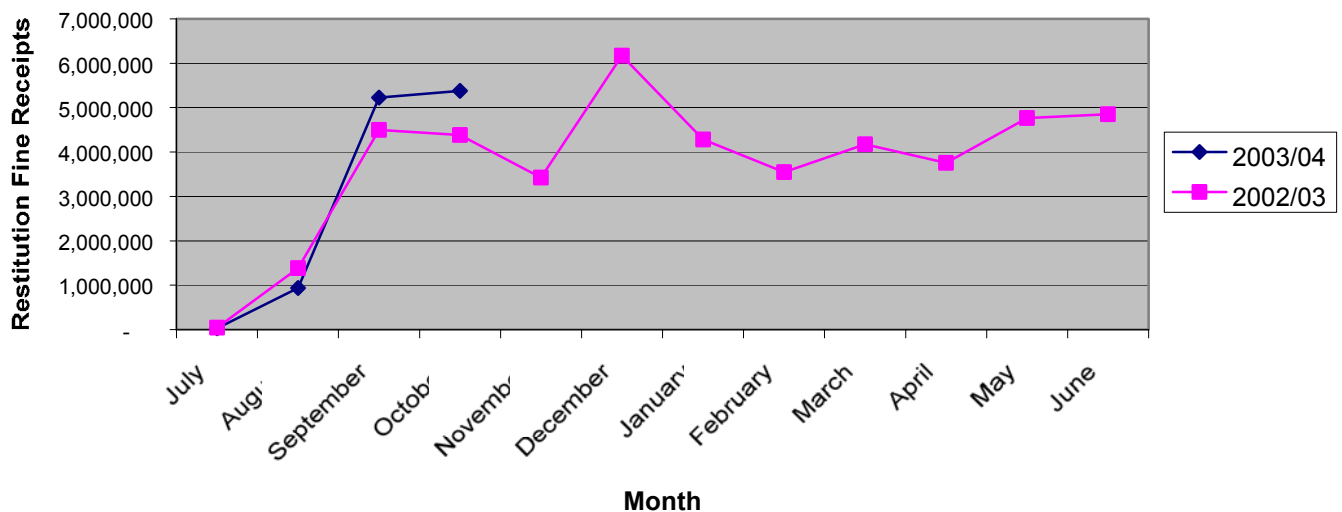


Revenue and Recovery

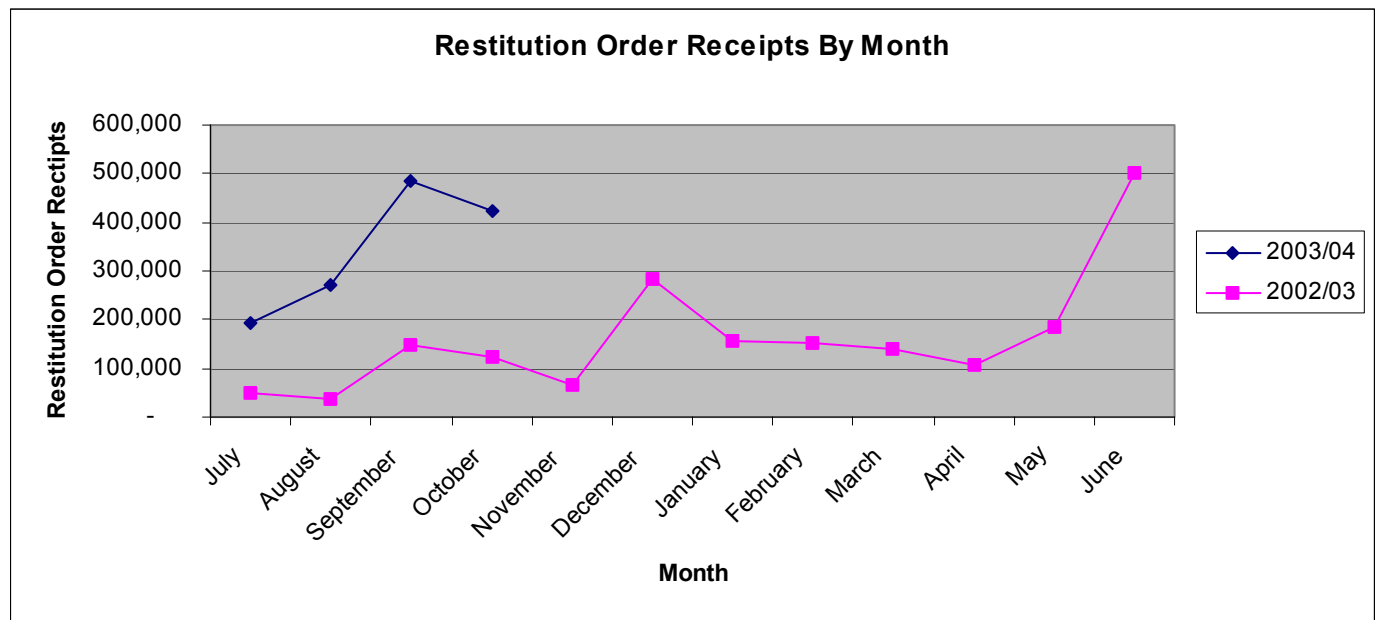
RESTITUTION FINES

Fiscal Year Comparison	Month of October	Fiscal Year to Date	% Change from Prior FY
FY 03/04	5,381,422	11,573,939	12%
FY 02/03		10,302,017	

Restitution Fine Receipts By Month

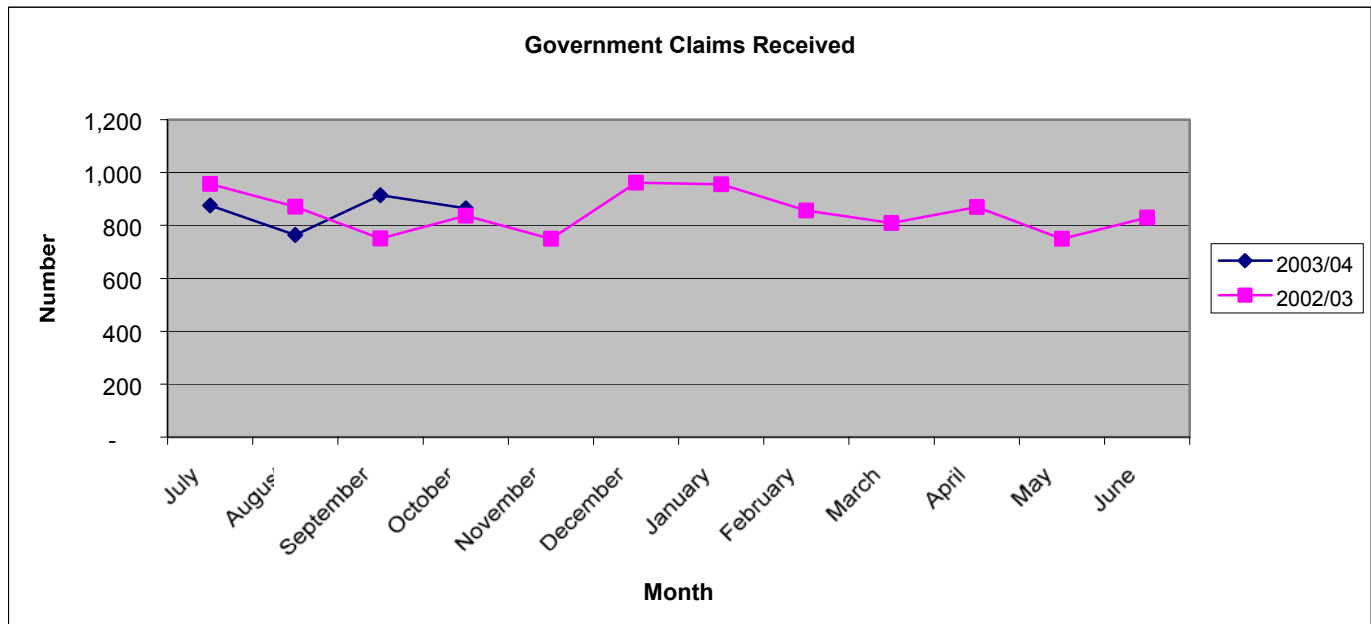


RESTITUTION ORDERS			
Fiscal Year Comparison	Month of October	Fiscal Year to Date	% Change from Prior FY
FY 03/04	422,303	1,373,046	283%
FY 02/03		358,463	



Government Claims

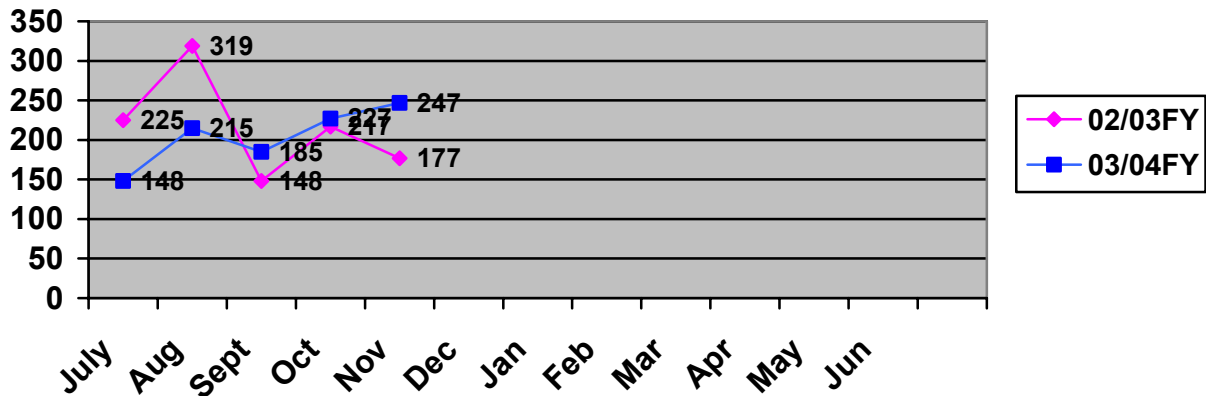
GOVERNMENT CLAIMS RECEIVED			
Fiscal Year Comparison	Month of October	Fiscal Year to Date	% Change from Prior FY
FY 03/04	864	3,417	0%
FY 02/03		3,416	



CONTRACT CLAIMS – AVERAGE PROCESSING TIME

Fiscal Year Comparison	Month of November	Fiscal Year to Date	% Change from Prior FY
FY 03/04	247	211	11%
FY 02/03		190	

Contract Claims- Avg Proc Time

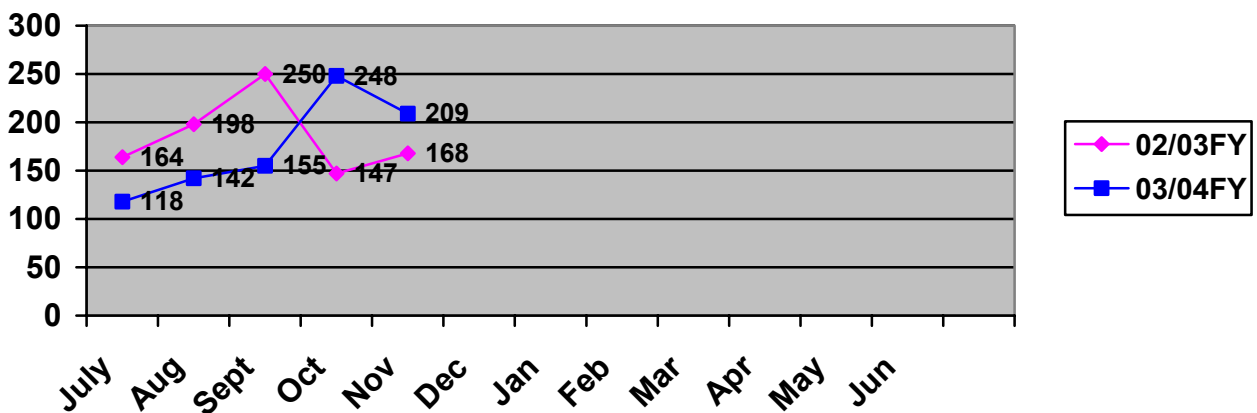


Contract claims -These are typically claims where a vendor has provided services to the State, but a purchase order or contract was not officially in place at the time the services were performed and, therefore, the affected agency does not have the authority to pay the invoice without the Board's approval.

EQUITY CLAIMS – AVERAGE PROCESSING TIME

Fiscal Year Comparison	Month of November	Fiscal Year to Date	% Change from Prior FY
FY 03/04	209	181	0%
FY 02/03		182	

Equity Claims - Avg Proc Time

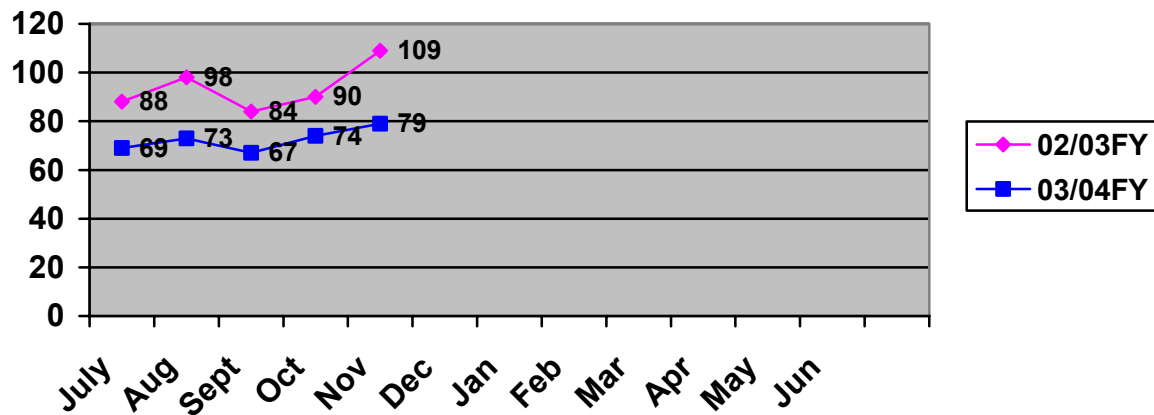


Equity Claims - These are claims where there is no legal liability on the part of the State to pay, but for which the claimant has asked the Board to exercise its equity power to provide payment in fairness for the action or inaction of a State agency. Also included to a large degree are outdated warrants (State-issued checks that went un-cashed for more than 3 years).

TORT CLAIMS – AVERAGE PROCESSING TIME

Fiscal Year Comparison	Month of November	Fiscal Year to Date	% Change from Prior FY
FY 03/04	79	73	-18%
FY 02/03	83	89	

Tort Claims - Avg Proc Time



Tort Claims –These are claims for damages filed against specific State agencies. These claims are generally rejected, but are a required administrative action to be taken by a claimant prior to bringing civil action against the State in a court of law. The filing of the Tort claim gives the State advance notice of potential future litigation.